

Embarrassment of Titled Lady "Nurses"

ON THE Battlefield

How Duchesses and Countesses, Garbed as Nurses, Distract the Attention of Officers with Their Bouquets, Their Pet Dogs and Their Flirtations



The Handsome Duchess of Westminster, Who Has Gone to the Front as a Nurse, Taking Her Favorite Wolfhound, Who Will Have to Be Cared For by the Army.

A QUITE unjustifiable addition to the dangers and sufferings of the soldiers at the front has been caused by the presence of women of title and wealth, who are attracted mainly by curiosity.

The great danger from this cause lies in the attention which these women are sure to receive from the officers of their army.

Most of the officers feel obliged to come bowing and smiling to the Duchess of This or Lady That, who has come out with a wagonload of delicacies for the sick, or some offer of services not suited to the occasion.

While this unseasonable society affair is going on, the enemy may be sapping up to the trenches, supply trains may be falling into confusion, the wounded may be neglected, and any one of a thousand misfortunes or accidents may be happening to the army. Soldiers are called from their duties to wait upon the visitors, and are even required to serve them with tea!

All the armies of the countries at war are suffering more or less from this nuisance, but England is undoubtedly suffering more than the others.

A conspicuous example of this feminine interference in the war is afforded by the case of the Dowager Duchess of Sutherland, who was formerly a noted beauty in London society. She organized a party of Red Cross nurses and went with them to Belgium at the beginning of the war. The intentions of the Duchess were undoubtedly excellent, but she was not a regularly trained nurse, and could not help being a hindrance to officers and doctors.

We catch a glimpse from her own account of some of the embarrassments she must have caused. She was still at Namur with her nurses when the Germans captured this place. She tells how she insisted on seeing the German commander. This officer, who had met the Duchess in society in London, felt obliged to be very polite.

"Please excuse me, Duchess," he said, "for not having been shaved for three days."

Imagine a man in the midst of the slaughter of thousands of soldiers stopping to apologize for not being freshly shaved!

The English may congratulate themselves that the Duchess was here embarrassing a German officer, but a little further inquiry will show that she gave just as much trouble to her own side.

Note that in the picture of the Duchess with her nurses she is carrying a large bunch of flowers. Evidently some one had to stop the work of caring for the sick to pay this delicate attention to Her Grace.

But a more surprising evidence of the Duchess's embarrassing activities has come to hand. Just after she came back from her short trip to the horrors of war society was astonished to learn that she had become quietly married to Major Percy D. Fitzgerald, of the Eleventh Hussars, an officer some ten years younger than herself.

While the Duchess was attending to the sick she must have been carrying on a flirtation, or the major was conducting a courtship, whichever way you like to put it!

How did the British soldiers about to die for their country enjoy watching the courtship between their major and the elderly duchess? Were they annoyed by it or did they take a sympathetic interest in it? In either case it must have distracted their thoughts from the only proper business of a soldier, which is to destroy the enemy.

And here is another British duchess who is busily engaged in interfering with the work of the officers at the war. This is the Duchess of Westminster, who has also

gone to the front as a Red Cross nurse.

The Duchess of Westminster is very handsome and comparatively youthful, and therefore all the more likely to cause trouble at the front. She is noted for her skittishness and fondness for violent sports. Her husband, from whom she has separated, complained about her excessive indulgence in skating and tobogganing.

Observe that the Duchess of Westminster has to be accompanied by her "favorite wolfhound." Just as the Duchess of Sutherland had her bouquet of flowers, this one must have her pet dog! The officers in charge of the difficult work of keeping up railway communications with the army had to provide accommodation for this useful animal.

We can see, too, from the Duchess's pictures that she has made the simple nurse's costume as attractive and coquettish as possible. She has left nothing undone to make herself a disturbing influence at the front.

A different type of troublesome society woman is Lady Dorothy Feilding, daughter of the Earl of Denbigh, who has also gone to the front as a Red Cross nurse. She is very young and frivolous and may be seen simpering and chattering, surrounded by a group of admiring officers.

It need hardly be said that such a young girl has no business near the unspeakable horrors of this war, but such is the frivolity and curiosity of feminine nature that these women cannot be kept away.

The English authorities have generally refused permission to all ordinary women to go to the scene of war, or even to France or Belgium. The nurse's uniform is a garb in which any curious and interfering woman can overcome this prohibition.

Many of these titled nuisances have gone to the front with much more encumbrance than a pet dog. One of them took with her a French lady's maid, an English lady's maid and a private secretary, who also is a skilled hairdresser. All these attendants formed part of a nursing contingent equipped by the Countess.

Assisted in this ample manner the Countess expected to help the poor soldier who had been snatched from the battlefield and to nurse him back to life.

There is one woman of conspicuous rank whose care for the wounded can arouse no criticism. She is the Queen of the Belgians. The Queen went through a com-

The Queen of the Belgians, a Woman of Rank, Who is Undoubtedly Helpful to the Wounded Soldiers, Because She Obtained a Regular Diploma as a Physician and Took a Two Years Course of Training as a Nurse.



Lady Dorothy Feilding, the Young Daughter of the Earl of Denbigh, in Her Field Nurse's Uniform, Simpering and Chattering in the Midst of Obsequious Officers, Instead of Attending to Her Work.



The Dowager Duchess of Sutherland (with the Bouquet), Who Went to the Front as a Nurse and Then Became Engaged to a Young Officer. This Picture Shows How the Work of Nursing the Wounded Must Be Interrupted While a Large Bouquet Is Handed to Her Grace.

plete course of study and took her diploma as a doctor and then went through two years' training as a nurse. She has visited the hospitals where the wounded Belgian soldiers were lying, regularly and daily from the beginning of the war.

She has always shown an intelligent understanding of the needs of the patients, and has undoubtedly been of service in improving the condition of the hospitals and in obtaining supplies for them. Her visits have been carried out quietly and unostentatiously, and she has not allowed any of the officers or doctors to interrupt their work to wait on her.

Such intelligent supervision and care for the sick would have been possible only in one who had a thorough medical training. The Queen is the only woman of her rank who has had such a training, and it is evident that practically no women of the titled classes generally have this preparation.

The Queen of the Belgians also had an excellent reason for being on the fighting line, for her country had been invaded by the enemy. This reason does not belong to the English women who are going to the front.

It is evident that the English are suffering from a recurrence of what Sir Frederick Treves, the noted British surgeon, called "the plague of women" during the Boer War. When the surgeon discovered the swarm of society women disguised as nurses who had gone to the front on that occasion he was hot with indignation.

Some of these amateur nurses, by their

outrageous flirtations, interrupted the convalescence of the wounded, and must have been responsible for not a few deaths.

Strange to say, the Duchess of Westminster was a victim of one of these sirens, for the young duke, to whom she was then only engaged, became entangled with the most notorious of them during the Boer War.

The thoughtless women are much more strongly attracted to the present scene of war, for the distance is shorter and the excitement greater.

It is clear to sensible people that there is plenty of appropriate work for wealthy women who wish to help the soldiers and sufferers in the war. They can subscribe and collect money for the use of hospitals and regular nurses. They can collect clothes and other useful supplies for the soldiers and forward them through the regular channels.

This is the kind of work that the American Duchess of Marlborough is carrying on with admirable energy. She is the head of the Committee of Mercy, which is taking care of war refugees, principally women and children from Belgium. Mrs. Waldorf Astor is another American woman who is doing a good work for the wounded soldiers.

The quiet useful labor at home does not satisfy the women who crave the excitement of war, the near proximity of danger and the smell of powder. Psychologists recognize a distinct type of abnormal personality in those women who find a pleasure in lingering near scenes of bloodshed.

The Kind of Winter We're Going to Have Foretold by the Caterpillars

By John T. Timmons.
(The Distinguished Horticulture Expert,
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THE coming Winter promises to be one that will be remembered for many years, on account of some very unusual features.

Every indication points to a late and beautiful Autumn, with but a few killing frosts more than a month later than common, and very unusually warm in some sections, where fruit trees will bloom and many forms of vegetation such as we are accustomed to see only in early Spring will appear, and thousands of persons will gather greens just as they do in the early part of April in most parts of the country.

In the far eastern portion of the country and pretty well south along the mountains of our Southwestern States, frosts and even ice will come pretty early, and some forms of vegetation will suffer, but later there will be the finest kind of weather, resembling Summer, which will extend far into the last months of the year.

The Western and Central States will have a very late Autumn, and even western Canada will escape the usual wintry blasts that so often chill the

country to such an extent that the Fall months are almost equal to Winter.

Last Winter was noted for its cold streaks, and one of these was the wonderfully warm spell for Winter. The temperature was up to Summer heat in many of the middle and western sections, but it will be just the opposite this Winter. We shall have temperatures below normal in January and February. Winter will be shorter than it has been on some former occasions, but we will be satisfied when it begins to moderate.

After the most intense cold we have experienced for years, we shall have a mild spell, and great thaws and floods will result, and folks will be congratulating themselves on the likelihood of an early Spring, but it would be advisable to wait until the forecast of the truthful caterpillar has been realized.

If the indications hold good, we shall have a very late and backward Spring, with real Winter at the time we should have fine Spring-like weather.

The caterpillar shows light in front, followed with a very well defined dark spot of considerable size, and this dark indicates our midwinter snap.

Then the light appears again, and this indicates the warm spell, and if there was no more dark there would be a prospect

of a very early Spring, but another dark spot appears toward the rear of the caterpillar, and this will bring the late and unseasonable cold at the time we should have our mild weather.

Last Winter was noted for its unusual severity in some of the Southern States, where we naturally expect a mild climate.

The far North, where we naturally expect severe weather, had a mild Winter, and these conditions were due to the fact that most of the seismic disturbances during the last months of last year were in the North.

The earthquakes during the past few weeks have been more noticeable in the southern portion of the northern hemisphere, and this will modify the weather in the southern sections of our country.

while the cold will be intense in the more northern portions, and all through the northern part of North America, the temperature will range far below normal during a great portion of our Winter period.

It has been many years since the Vernal Equinox was on the 2d of September.

It has been more than a century since the United States experienced as little disturbances at the equinox, as was experienced this year. No storms of any degree appeared except along the north Pacific Coast.

In this part of the world the lows and highs, as we are used to speaking of the relative atmospheric conditions, which move across the country, producing the changes in our weather, were moving slowly as at any other time in the year.

which is different from the usual condition at the period of the equinox.

Larvae of insects are deeper in the earth, field mice and other burrowing animals are nesting deeper, and bark on new wood is much thicker, and weeds are thicker where roots will need protection. All these indicate severe freezing.

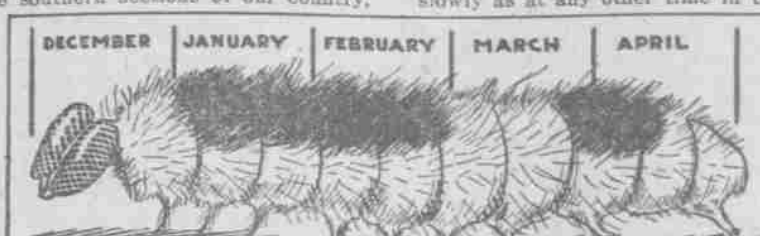
In almost every section of the country where there was a shortage of rainfall during the Summer months, Autumn rains have replenished running springs, and if cold weather does come livestock will not suffer for the want of water.

Rainy Autumns are pretty certain indications of severe freezing during the Winter, while dry Autumn months often foretell a mild, open Winter.

Autumn leaves tinted with frost indicate early Winter, but when the leaves die and fall off without frost the Winter will hold off late, but be more than ordinary cold.

Corn husks and the chaff on straw were heavier this season than common, and weed seed are retained in heavier coverings than are usually noticed.

Our weather is the result of a cause, and if we only get at the cause we can easily foretell the result. Watch and see how these predictions compare with the actual results.



How the Caterpillar "Predicts" the Winter by the Arrangement of Dark and Light Spots on Its Back.